FEBRUARY, 1971

THE NUMISMATIC MESSENGER

VOL. 1 NO. 2

CASTENHOLZ and SONS

NUMISMATIC BOOKSELLERS

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ABOUT CASTENHOLZ AND SONS

To most of you our name will be a new one. The firm of Castenholz and Sons has been formed because we believe there is a genuine turn toward more serious interest in numismatics. Of the large influx of collectors in the 1960's, many have gone on to serious study in numismatics. Interestingly enough, even though I have been told that collectors really don't care to know more about their coins, it has been a fairly consistent rule that activity in various collecting fields has increased sharply following the publication of works in those fields.

Another concept which brings Castenholz and Sons into being is the belief that numismatics is so very diversified that many seasoned collectors, and nearly all beginners, are unaware of the vast wealth of numismatic knowledge which has been published. Archaeologists, historians, art historians, and students in several other scholarly fields find the study of coins (all forms of money, really) to be a major element in their work. Many of the finest coin collections have been formed by great numismatists. Other great collections have been formed strictly for the ownership, rather than for the study of the coins. Perhaps significantly, some of the greatest numismatists — true scholars — have owned few, if any, coins. The point is simply this: through the pages of the Messenger, we shall provide exposure to all worthy facets of numismatics (speculation not being one of them). You, the reader, are left to choose your form of endeavor, but with an awareness of many more facets that are open to pursuit.

Finally, to the advanced student and scholar, we hope to offer articles of interest, and an ever-increasing selection of both new and second-hand books on numismatics. To the student of numismatic art, or to those who just wish to collect fine prints of coins, several will be included in most issues of the Messenger.

As dealers in numismatic books, we are most eager to purchase libraries, or single volumes, on all phases of numismatics. We do *not* collect, speculate in, or deal in coins.

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Subscription Price: Four dollars per annum, starting in January.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The format of the Messenger will vary considerably in the year to come. In our effort to serve the numismatic community, some experimentation will be done. The general plan, however, will be to offer a good selection of books, some important coins through our advertisements, and to offer the medium for the publication of articles which contribute to numismatic knowledge. This basic premise will not be altered.

We regret that we are unable to conduct "over the counter" business at our address. It is hoped that we may do so some time in the future.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF ENGLISH COINS

by B. J. Castenholz

Part II: The Literature

In the following description of English coin literature, books covering the entire or nearly entire period of the coinage are first presented. Following these general works, the more specialized titles will be mentioned.

Two elements in the evolution of these writings, if kept in mind, will greatly aid in the interpretation of the present publications in the field. First, the early writings show a clear development of the state-of-the-art. The more recent works do not necessarily show this. In addition to the scholarly contributions, there are many popular books, appealing more to the collector than to the student. Books for beginners and especially books with pricing and dealing information have become commonplace. However, for the purpose of tracing the development of English numismatics, the two types of works will be listed separately.

Secondly, whereas the early studies most often dealt with the whole coinage , not a long time passed before specialized works began to appear. Logically, the present day situation developed — great amounts of very precise, very specialized and detailed articles appear at an increasing rate. This is partly because of the increasing interest in numismatics, partly because of more sophisticated means and approaches to the study of coins, i.e. various metallurgical investigation methods, the improved hoard recovery and reporting methods (due in no small way to the treasure trove laws), die identity studies (not a new method, but now being applied in very systematic ways), and by the scholarly influence of the great societies around the world devoted to numismatic study.

Whereas the early writers gathered up the obvious information and combined it with the results of their own serious study and theory to produce works of a wide scope, the present day situation seems to be the specialization of most scholars and students, with only an occasional gathering up of the results of their labors to produce a new broad-coverage work.

Let us take a look at the general works for a moment.

Stephen Martin-Leake published the first serious book dealing solely with the coinage of England. His *An Historical Account of English Money, from the Conquest to the Present Time; including Those of Scotland, from the Union of the two Kingdoms in King James I* was first published in 1726. The second edition appeared in 1745, the third in 1793. From Leake's comments in the preface to the second edition, the collecting and study of English coins had increased greatly since his first edition had appeared.

The next important work was by Martin Folkes, first published by him, and later by the Society of Antiquaries. The story is well told in the 'Advertisement' (preface) to the third edition, which appeared in 1763, a part of which follows:

> That Gentleman, in the year 1736, first published, in a sheet and a half, A Table of English Gold Coins, from the 18th year of King Edward the Third, when Gold was first coined in England, to the present Time, with their Weights and intransic Values. And, in the year 1745, reprinted it, with some Additions, prefixing a larger and more considerable Work, intituled, A Table of English Silver Coins, from the Norman Conquest to the present time, with their Weights, intransic Values, and some Remarks upon the several Pieces.

The 1763 (and last) edition was entitled *Tables of English Silver and Gold Coins*. It was illustrated by a group of copper plate engravings started by Folkes, and finished and added to by the Society of Antiquaries after Folkes' death. These famous plates later appeared in several forms, including Ruding's *Annals* (see below).

The 1760's saw the publication of a group of works, several of them major contributions to the numismatic knowledge of England. They stand today as the pioneering classics in the study of English coins. In addition to the *Tables* by Folkes, Thomas Snelling, the London coin dealer 'Who buys and sells all Sorts of Coins and Medals.' according to the title page of *A View of the Copper Coin and Coinage of England*, 1766, produced several volumes on the coinage of Great Britain and her continental possessions.

Published individually, Snelling's works are often found

bound in groups. The following list is taken from an advertisement in the back of Pegge's *Essays:*

BOOKS sold by T. SNELLING.

1. A View of the Silver Coin and Coinage of England, with Copper-Plates, in Boards, 12s 6d
2. Ditto of the Gold Coin and Coinage of England, 9s
3. ———— Copper Coin and Coinage of England, 10s 6d
4. Miscellaneous Views of Coins struck by English Princes in France — Counterfeit Sterlings — Coins struck by the East-India Company — Those in the West-India Colonies — and in the Isle of Man: Also, of Pattern Pieces of Gold, and Silver Coins, 10s 6d
5. A View of the original Nature and Use of Jettons, or Counters, with Copper-Plates, 7s 6d

The dates of those works listed above range from 1763-1769.

It would appear that the popular interest in coin collecting in England in the late eighteenth century and first decade of the nineteenth century centered on the very interesting trade tokens of the period. Almost immediately upon the issuance of these tokens, collecting them became fashionable. And contemporary collectors soon were publishing descriptions and catalogues of them. The works on tokens will be listed later in this article.

After a span of many years since the last edition of Martin-Leake the monumental work of the Reverend Roger Ruding appeared. Titled *The Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain and Her Dependencies*, it was published in 1817. The second edition, expended from four volumes to five volumes octavo with a quarto volume of plates appeared only two years later. The plates were for the most part those appearing in Folkes' *Tables* nearly sixty years before. The third edition, considerably expanded, and produced as three quarto volumes, appeared in 1840. The great value of the *Annals* is in the records pertaining to the coinage which are reproduced from a great many sources. Even today, Ruding is essential to the numismatist interested in the history of the coinage.

A year after the last edition of Ruding, Edward Hawkins produced his great work, the *Silver Coins of England*. Covering the

whole of the coinage in that metal, it brought the study of English coins a giant step forward. As with Ruding, it went through three editions, 1841, 1876, and 1887. Although updated in the later editions, both incidentally edited by Robert Lloyd Kenyon, Hawkins' grandson, the main purpose for the later editions was to meet the needs of more collectors. Kenyon authored the sequel, as he called it, to Hawkins with the *Gold Coins of England*, 1884. A second edition never appeared, however just recently it has been reprinted. Montagu completed the trilogy with the publication of *The Copper, Tin, and Bronze Coinage and Patterns for Coins of England*, 1885. The second edition of that work appeared in 1893.

The close of the nineteenth century saw the publication, by the Trustees of the British Museum, of Herbert Grueber's *A Handbook of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland in the British Museum*, 1899. Not considered one of the British Museum Catalogues, this book describes the display of electrotypes exhibited at the Museum. The introduction, however, is a good brief history of the coinage of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The plates, photographically reproducing the coins from casts, were a great improvement over most previous works. A revised edition has just appeared (1970) which brings the book up to the end of the traditional pounds, shillings, and pence system.

W. Stewart Thorburn wrote *A Guide to the History and Valuation of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland* in order to meet the need for a popular, inexpensive book with valuations of the coins. The first edition was undated, but a second edition appeared in 1888, and after Thorburn's death, revised editions were published by H. A. Grueber in 1898 and 1905.

In the early part of this century, Gertrude B. Rawlings wrote *Coins and How to Know Them*. The first edition was undated, but published in 1908. A very popular book, it contained several chapters on the coinages of Ancient Britain, England, Scotland, Ireland, and the colonies. Five editions were published, the last in 1935. An American edition appeared in 1966.

Perhaps the most readable general survey in this field is Sir Charles Oman's *The Coinage of England*. Published in 1931, it

covers the entire subject excellently, but as P. Grierson remarks 'Gives a good account of the history of the coinage, but not dependable over details.'*

The task of compiling in a single work the results of the mass of detailed information on all phases of English coinage (since 600 A.D.) fell to one of the giants of this field, George Cyril Brooke. His *English Coins* first appeared in 1932. Not a large volume, and yet containing 64 plates, it immediately became the standard field handbook. The second edition appeared during World War II, in 1942, the third, revised edition with 72 plates first appeared in 1950, and was reprinted in 1955. Although North (see below) is now more up to date, Brooke is not at all totally superceded by any single work.

J. J. North published, in two volumes, the *English Hammered* Coinage. Volume II appeared first, in 1960, volume I was published in 1963. A very attractive pair of books, *English Hammered Coinage* fully illustrates the sequence of coinage and gathers together the results of research since Brooke's work first appeared.

Perhaps significantly, North does not deal with the milled coinage. Brooke also passed over it very lightly. The reason: in 1925 Herbert Allen Seaby compiled *The Milled Silver Coinage of England*. This work not only covered regular issues, but also listed patterns and proofs. Published by Spink and Son, it was followed by *The Milled Coinage of England, 1662-1946*, published in 1950 under the general editorship of Howard Linecar. However, H. A. Seaby, having organized the now famous firm of B. A. Seaby, Ltd., compiled *The British Imperial Silver Coinage or The English Silver Coinage, 1649-1949* in 1949. The second edition appeared in 1957, the third revised edition in 1968. All of these works list in detail the various varieties of busts, legends, overdates, mint marks, and other significant variations for each date of each denomination within the periods covered. *The Milled Coinage of England* deals with the gold coinage as well as the silver, but omits the copper. The other works all include patterns as well as proofs but cover the silver coinage only.

The copper and minor metal coinages were first described in

*Coins and Medals, A Select Bibliography, by Philip Grierson, London, 1954.

detail by Hyman Montagu in 1885 and in 1893. However, several earlier writers had published works on the coinages in the minor metals. The Reverend H. Christmas' *Copper and Billon Coinage of the British Empire* was published in 1864, but due to a fire all but three or four copies have perished. The *Copper Coinage of Great Britain, &c*, written by D. T. Batty as a description, mostly of his own collection, is a very voluminous work in four volumes, 1868-1898. Although it contains a vast amount of information, it is very difficult to use due to its organization.

In 1920 Henry Garside wrote *The British Imperial Copper and Bronze Coinage*. A supplement followed in 1925. Further work was done by E. Bramah in 1929, but the magnum opus on the subject, C. Wilson Peck's *Copper, Tin, and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958*, appeared in 1960. The second edition, published in 1964, indicated just how thorough Peck had been — only 79 new entries were made (about 3% of the total listing) and a third of these were simply new issues since the first edition was written!

This last volume may well have one of two effects on further British Museum catalogues: either they may be patterned after this magnificent study, or they may simply not appear — such are the dimensions of this corpus.

It might do well to comment on some of the books written for beginners. In some cases, these have some value even to the more advanced student, either because of the grouping together of all forms of money in use, as C. R. Josset does in *Money in Britain*, or because the work is particularly useful to the formation of a collection. In this latter category the earlier titles often included English coins only as part of the work.

John Pinkerton first published his *Essay on Medals* in 1784. The title is somewhat deceptive, as the book deals with coins as well as medals, and of English as well as several other series, including the classics. Of particular interest are the preface, giving an account of numismatic works published down to that time, and the Present Prices of Medals, Section XXIV, enlightening for the rarity of certain pieces. The second edition of Pinkerton was published in 1789. Unlike the first, it was of two volumes, illustrated, and carried the author's name. The final edition, also

in two volumes, appeared in 1808.

In 1853, H. Noel Humphreys published, as part of Bohn's Reference Library, *The Coin Collector's Manual.* Several editions appeared, including those of 1876, 1883, 1887, and 1891. The work covered the whole of the classical coinages, and included that of the British Isles and of Europe. The two demi-octavo volumes were very handy to use, and became quite popular. Although considered by the collector as a standard reference until well into this century, it is of little value to the collector today.

Another of Bohn's Reference Library, *A Guide to the Study of English Coins from the Conquest to the Present Time* appeared in 1870. First written by Henry William Henfrey, the work was later published as a new and revised edition by C. F. Keary in 1885. As a general guide to the types of the coinage, including as it did, line drawings of some of the coins, or frequently just the reverse coats of arms, it was a handy beginner's guide.

Of the more recent introductory books, and those oriented toward the advanced collector, Peter Seaby's *The Story of the English Coinage*, Howard Linecar's *Coins*, and later his *Advanced Guide to Coin Collecting*, and Margaret Amstell's three books, *A Start to Coin Collecting*, *Another Period in Coin Collecting*, and *The Early Period of Coin Collecting* (1966, 1967, and 1969) covering the English coinage from the most recent to the earliest issues (in that order), are all worth reading.

Another group of books, in most cases of a general nature, which are of much value to the collector, and very much to the specialist as well, are the catalogues of the series, giving values of the coins. Although coin values were stated in some cases even in the early books, such as Pinkerton, it has been only in the second quarter of this century that the sophisticated evaluation catalogues have become dominant as the references from which pricing and buying information can be found. Prior to that time, pricing was based on personal experience of the buyer as well as the seller. Thus auction catalogues were carefully studied by most buyers of means.

The firm of B. A. Seaby is a pioneer in this field. First issuing

lists of their stock, they expanded their catalogue in 1945 to include a comprehensive listing of the coins of Great Britain. Titled the *Standard Catalogue of the Coins of Great Britain and Ireland*, it went through ten editions between 1945 and 1960. Renamed the *Standard Catalogue of British Coins*, the work was reduced in physical dimensions in 1962, but grossly improved by the use of photographs and cataloguing in more detail, including part II, the coinage since 1816 listed by date and variety. Successive editions have appeared annually.

Kenneth Bresset published an American catalogue (Whitman), *A Guide Book of English Coins*. First appearing as a second edition (the so-called first edition being merely a price list by another compiler) in 1962-1963, the book, covering the period from 1816, went through seven editions and then promptly stopped after 1969 — perhaps indicative of the fad which English coin collecting went through in the United States in the 1960's.

Finally, a recent publication from Canada must be mentioned. *The Guide Book of Great Britain's Modern Coins* was published in 1961 by H. C. Taylor and Somer James. The first edition covered the period 1860-1960. The second edition appeared in 1968, under the modified title *The Guidebook and Catalogue of British Commonwealth Coins*. The list of authors also changed — Jerome Remick, Howard Linecar, and Somer James. Essentially a very massive pricing list, the second edition covered the coinages of 115 countries of the Commonwealth between the years 1660 and 1969.

Appendix I to this article is an excerpt from the first volume of Ruding's *Annals*, pages xii to xvii of the Preface. It is reproduced here, exactly as it appears in the original. Of particular interest are the comments Ruding made on the early writers on English coins.

Part II will continue in the March issue with a discussion of the more specialized publications.

NOTICE

Starting in the March issue of the Messenger: An Introduction to the Study of the Coins of the United States.

I shall now give some account of the different historical works upon this subject which have hitherto been published.

The study of our National Coins was but in its infancy at the end of the 17th century, and therefore Archbishop Sharpe's Observations were, probably, the first systematick treatise ever composed on the Coinage of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Some part of them was written before the year 1698-9; for the Remarks on the Silver Coins of England had been communicated to Mr. Thoresby previously to that period. By his suggestions they were extended and improved, and were again transmitted to him, with the addition of an Account of English Gold, and of the Scottish Coins, accompanied by a letter dated upon the 27th of January 1698-9 [g]. The Observations upon the Coinage of Ireland appear not to have been then completed; but they were a short time afterwards presented to Thoresby, as they are enumerated in the Catalogue of his Museum, which was printed in 1713 [h].

No part of this work was, however, printed until the year 1773, when Mr. Ives published that portion only which relates to English

g Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica, No XXXV. p. 1.

h No 95, p. 528. This Catalogue was published at the end of Ducatus Leodiensis, folio, 1715.

Silver Coins, in the first number of his Select Papers. But in 1785 the whole, containing Observations on the Gold and Silver Coins of England, and on Scotch and Irish Money, from the Conquest to the Revolution, was given to the publick by Mr. Nichols[i], from the MS. which Mr. Gough purchased at the sale of Thoresby's Museum in 1764. Much of historical detail is not to be expected in this work, as the Archbishop's design led him chiefly to sketch an imperfect outline of the description of the Coins, together with rules for the appropriation of them to their respective Monarchs. His Observations will, notwithstanding, be found to possess considerable merit, especially if we take into the account the very little assistance he could derive from any other source than the sagacity of his own mind.

That this work formed the foundation of Bishop Nicolson's Chapters on Money, which are to be found at the end of his Historical Libraries, is evident, not only from the Archbishop's Letter, before mentioned[k], in which he states that he had communicated his first sketch to Archdeacon, afterwards Bishop, Nicolson, but also from a note in the Bishop's

[i] It forms No XXXV. of the Bibl. Topog. Britannica.

[k] Addressed to Thoresby, and dated Jan. 27, 1698-9.

work [l], where he refers to that communication, and calls the Archbishop his best guide. These chapters contain some account of the Coins of England, Scotland, and Ireland, from the Conquest to the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and were, I presume, the most early publications upon that subject; for the different parts appeared between 1696 and 1724 [m].

In 1707 Bishop Fleetwood published, in 8vo, Chronicon Preciosum, or an Account of English Money, the Price of Coin, and other Commodities, for the last 600 years. This edition had no plates; but twelve (six of Gold and six of Silver Coins) were added on the republication of the work in 1745, together with an Appendix of an Historical Account of Coins. As it was the Bishop's primary intention to trace the depreciation of Money, scarcely any thing relating to the history of Coinage is to be found in the body of this treatise, and but little can be expected from an Appendix of 30 pages, which is the whole that is appropriated to that subject.

[l] English Historical Library, page255 note, 3d edition, folio 1736.

[m] The English Historical Library, Part I. 1696.
II. 1697.
Part III. 1699.
The Scottish Ditto ..... 1702.
The Irish Ditto ..... 1724.
Nicolson's and Burn's History of Westmorland and Cumberland, vol. II. p. 294.

Stephen Martin Leake, Clarenceux King at Arms, published in 1726, Nummi Britannici Historia, in 8vo, with eight plates. To the second edition in 1745, which is considerably enlarged and improved, and the title altered to "An Historical Account of English Money," he added six more, but omitted the third plate of the first edition (some of the Coins on which are, however, transferred to other plates), and thus made the whole number thirteen. A third edition was published by the Booksellers, in 1793, with an Appendix, which gives a slight account of the Coinage of George III., and with an additional plate containing some of his Coins.

This author has the merit of being the first who attempted to give a regular historical account of the Coinage of the various Monarchs, from the Conquest to the reign of George II. inclusive, comprized in a short view of each reign. As far as it goes it has great merit, but the plan is too much contracted, extending in the enlarged edition to no more than 436 8vo pages, and is founded chiefly upon the authority of printed books, instead of original Records.

In 1732, Tindal, the Translator of Rapin's History of England, added to his second edition of that work, in folio, some account, with en-

gravings on wood, of the Coins of the different Monarchs from William I. to James II., both inclusive, in notes at the end of each reign. These notices are very short and imperfect.

The Society of Antiquaries published, in 1733, Browne Willis's Folio Table of the Gold Coins of England, from Edward III. to George II. both inclusive.

This seems to have suggested the idea of a Table of English Gold Coins, from the 18th of Edward III. to the 1st of George II., which was drawn up by Martin Folkes, Esq. and printed for the Society of Antiquaries, in 4to, 1736. These Tables are little more than Lists, except that to the latter are added the weights of the Coins, together with a few remarks.

This Mr. Folkes republished in 1745, subjoining it to his Table of English Silver Coins, and a slight Account of Scottish Money from the Union of the two Crowns.

It was his intention to have illustrated these Tables by a Series of Engravings of the Coins, but he was prevented by death from perfecting his design. His Plates, in number 44, which he left unfinished, were purchased of his Executors by the Society of Antiquaries, and, with the addition of 19 Plates in continuation of the Series, and of 6 Supplemental ones, were published by them in 1763, with a new edition of

the Tables; but without any improvement of the letter-press, and indeed without any addition to it, except an Explanation of the Plates, and a few notes to that explanation.

Mr. Folkes's Table of Silver Coins affords much valuable information subsequent to the reign of Richard III.; but the preceding period from the Conquest is extremely defective, occupying no more than 13 quarto pages.

The Antiquaries' edition of this work adds but little to it, except in the article of Plates, and the description which is given of them. Even the great imperfection which runs nearly through the whole of the original, the want of reference to authorities, has not been supplied.

An Essay towards an Historical Account of Irish Coins, by James Simon, of Dublin, Merchant, F. R. S. was published at Dublin in 1749, 4to; to which a Supplement was added, by Snelling, with two additional Plates.

This, though modestly styled an Essay only, is, in my judgement, the most valuable of all the publications upon the Coinage of any part of the United Dominions. The original documents to which the author had access furnish information of the greatest interest, and of the highest authority. I am happy to seize this opportunity of acknowledging my numerous obligations to this work.

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NUMISMATIC BOOKS

All books listed here are new. A second-hand book list will appear again in the next issue of the Messenger. In addition to our own stock, in-print numismatics works from most anywhere in the world can be obtained on request. Your inquiries are invited. We regret that we are unable to send books on approval. Postage and handling are charged on all orders. California residents please add 5% sales tax.
Numismatic books listed are in the language of the title, unless otherwise stated.

GENERAL

Allen, Capt. J. J. Cullimore. *Sovereigns of the British Empire.* 60 pages, collotype illustrations in the text, with valuations list. Cloth. Includes the Branch Mints. $5.00

Allen, D. *Belgic Coins as Illustrations of Life in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age of Britain.* 1958. x plates. 4to. Paper covers. $1.25

Allen, D. F. *Map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age.* 55 pages, index, charts, map. Ordnance Survey, England, 1962. $2.25

Ahlstrom, B. *Sveriges Besttningsmynt, 1561-1878.* 173 pages, illustrations in the text: text in Swiedish, German and English. Laminated card covers. 1967. $9.00

Amstell, Margaret. *A Start to Coin Collecting.* (English coins, Elizabeth II to Charles II.) 78 pages, illustrations in text. $2.00

Amstell, Margaret. *Another Period in Coin Collecting.* (English Coins, Carles I to Edward III.) 1967. 78 pages, illustrations. Cloth. $2.00

Andrews, Arthur. *Australian Tokens & Coins.* 163 pages, 61 plates. Cloth. 1965. $3.25

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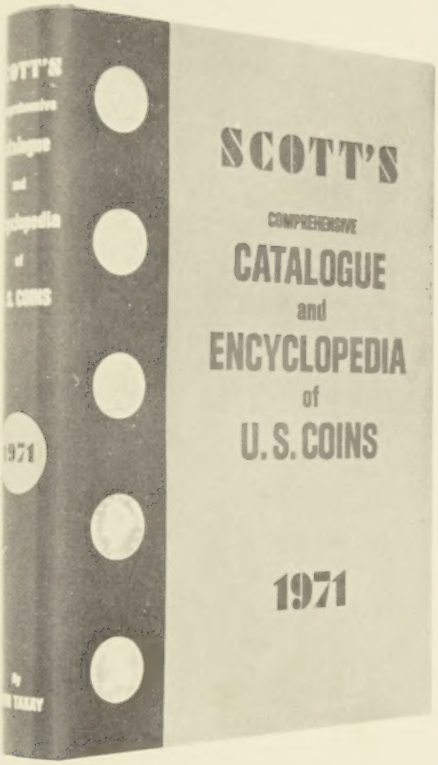

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